



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Press Release

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July 1 U.S. Cattle Inventory Down 2 Percent

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2012, totaled 97.8 million head, 2 percent below the 100.0 million on July 1, 2011, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. This is the lowest all cattle and calves inventory for July 1 since the series began in 1973.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 39.7 million, were down 2 percent from July 1, 2011. Beef cows, at 30.5 million head, were down 3 percent from July 1, 2011. Milk cows, at 9.2 million head, remained unchanged from last year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over, at 15.7 million head, were down 2 percent from July 1, 2011. Beef replacement heifers, at 4.2 million head, remained unchanged from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.1 million head, were down 2 percent. Other heifers, at 7.4 million head, were down 3 percent from last year. Steers, weighing 500 pounds and over, at 14.0 million head, were down 1 percent from July 1, 2011. Bulls, weighing 500 pounds and over, at 1.9 million head, were down 5 percent from last year. Calves under 500 pounds, recorded at 26.5 million head, were down 3 percent. All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, at 12.3 million head, were up 1 percent from a year ago.

The 2012 calf crop is expected to be 34.5 million, down 2 percent from 2011. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 25.1 million, down 2 percent from 2011.

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